

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 6-7 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 7-11 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner's suggested change has been made.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over JP 3-

263814 in view of Pinckney (US Pat. No. 5,843,623) or JP 2-30047 or JP 4-353848 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 5 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-4 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Pinckney in view of JP 3-263814 or JP 1-187926 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the feature of claim 5 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 5 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in item 6 on page 4 of the Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 6 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 7-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 7-11 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 6 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 5-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 5 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 6 is dependent on allowable claim 1, it is believed to be allowable in dependent form.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-11 are solicited.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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Respectfully submitted,

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